

HI-Q

The LARC Journal

Volume 61

February 1995

Issue 602



CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR

Phone: 767-7661
Listen: 146.82 MHz
Txmit: 146.22 MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 767-5492
Listen: 147.06 MHz
Txmit: 146.46 MHz

ANNUAL DINNER



6:00 p.m. Symposium
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Pagoda Gardens
(Across from Country Fair Mall)

Misc. Odds & Ends

Well, another new year has begun. It seems like only yesterday! Hopefully, everyone didn't overdo it too much.

Last month's article about amateur radio and the hydro code contained one small error in terms. The article referred to the *Ontario Hydro Code* when in fact, this should have read the *Ontario Electrical Safety Code*. Thanks to Gary, VE3GLM for bringing this to my attention. The Code applies to all things electrical and related rules and regulations in Ontario. Mea culpa.

Hopefully, you haven't broken any of your New Year's resolutions-yet! I've solved the problem by not making any. I've quite smoking and drinking and lost weight, so there's not too much in the way of resolutions to make. The only one to make is to try to be a better person and considerate of others. A few club members have passed their 5 wpm code tests and are entering the new HF world. Within a few years, commercial use of Morse code will disappear. The US Coast Guard no longer

guards the CW marine frequencies and in 1999, the Canadian Coast Guard will follow the Americans. It will be left to the amateur radio operators to keep this mode of radio communication alive.

Spring is around the corner and so are the Nordics. It should be an exciting time for all club members who have volunteered their services. Right now, the final push is being made to put the finishing touches on the World Ski Championships. I hope to have a special April edition of *HI-Q* devoted to the Nordics.-Ed.

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1881-1972

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Membership Secretary:
John Watson, VE3GTX 683-3199

Past President:
Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK 345-5856

HI-Q Editor: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM 344-7731

Voyageur Award

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, in co-operation with the City of Thunder Bay, is offering the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award to any station working at least 5 Thunder Bay amateurs. The award is an attractive 8.5"x11" parchment scroll, truly a complement to any radio shack.

Please send your log of Thunder Bay amateurs with dates, times and frequencies and \$2.00 to the Awards Manager at the club address below.

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published September through June by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Inc. (LARC), an Ontario registered, non-profit corporation. The opinions or viewpoints expressed or implied in HI-Q are those of the contributing authors. The LARC, HI-Q or its editor assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted. Material in HI-Q may be copied for non-profit use by the amateur radio community, provided that credit is given to the author(s) and source(s).

Contributions related to amateur radio, in particular those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs, are encouraged. Material may either be submitted in the form of manuscripts with drawings or photographs or on disk in either WordPerfect® 5.1/6.0 or ASCII text file format. Please use GIF, PCX or TIFF formats for graphic images (black and white preferred).

Mail your articles to: The HI-Q Editor • 82 Lawrence Avenue • Thunder Bay ON • P7A 6X6 • Canada or fax 807-345-2688. Files may be submitted via packet to: VA3ROM @ VE3TKA.#NON.ON.CAN.NA.

Send your dated announcements no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the month in which the notice is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, HI-Q accepts advertising at the following per issue rates: full page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your "camera-ready" copy and cheque (payable to LARC) to the club address below.

Advertising material that appears in HI-Q does not imply either an endorsement nor a recommendation of the product or service by the LARC, HI-Q or its editor.

LARC membership fees, determined annually, are set for 1994-1995 as follows: Regular—\$30.00, Associate—\$20.00, Associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, Student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and Family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member at the same address.

HI-Q is distributed to all LARC members, except that only 1 copy is sent to each address.

In honour of the memory of our founding President, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

The LARC owns and operates 2 VHF repeaters, VE3TBR 146.82(-) located atop St. Joseph's Heritage and VE3YQT 147.06(-) on Mount Baldy.

The club mailing address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Inc. • PO Box 2571 • Thunder Bay ON • P7B 5G1 • Canada.

RF Alley

BY NORM, VE3XRC

The Northwood area of town has long been called the "RF Alley" of Thunder Bay due to the number of radio amateurs who live in this particular area.

During the recent Radio Amateurs of Canada Winter contest on December 31, 1994, this description of Northwood sure earned it's reputation! At the beginning of the contest, all radios were peaked to the utmost, mic gains were up and processors engaged. I sure felt sorry for the 'S' meters.

VE3XAW, VE3DZR, VA3EI, VE3LMN and VE3XRC were all calling "CQ CONTEST" within a few cycles of each other. With a little bit of practice, you could time your calls between the other stations. One good thing, we all gave each other 59+ signal reports! I haven't seen all the logs but those that I have seen show that we all managed to work coast to coast even with the poor band conditions and extensive QRM at times.

This contest brought out the best in the hams involved. Nobody got excited and it sure honed your skills as a radio operator. You learned in a hurry how to operate the attenuate switch and the RF gain control! As usual, I had a lot of run in this contest and I'm looking forward to the competition in the next RAC contest scheduled for July 1, 1995.

FOR SALE

48V DC POWER SUPPLY AND
48V TO 12 VDC CONVERTER
ASKING \$5.00 FOR EACH
CONTACT WAYNE, VA3LOG
807-577-3123

FOR SALE

EXTREMELY HEAVY DUTY
POLE MOUNT ROTATOR—
110VAC—1/8 HP MOTOR—
REQUIRES 24" SQ.
MOUNTING AREA
ASKING \$200
CONTACT BILL, VE3AJ
807-344-1866

FOR SALE

10-80 METRE VERTICAL
ANTENNA—REQUIRES
GROUND RADIALS
CONTACT BOB, VE3RVA
807-767-6924

FOR SALE

R.S. HTX-202 2M FM XCVR—
BOX—MANUALS—LIKE NEW
ASKING \$225.00
CONTACT BOB, VA3ROM
807-344-7731

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Meeting Minutes

BY NORM, VE3XRC

Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 245 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on January 12, 1995.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 29 members and guests in attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held December 8, 1994 were published in detail in the January edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. Motion: moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen that the minutes be adopted as printed. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1994-1995 financial statement as of January 12, 1995 as follows:

Balance as of December 8, 1994:	\$3,554.84
Expenses:	\$1,291.72
Income:	\$1,222.15
Balance as of January 12, 1995:	\$3,485.27

Motion: Moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VE3KV, Len Catillo that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

President's Report

VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

Link to Grand Marais: Terry announced that he had spent 4 hours working on the duplexers and he figured another 4 hours of work would have them ready. The club will be ordering two 8 element beams (approximate cost of \$130.00 each). The radios are ready. The link from Grand Marais to Duluth is working well.

I-500 Snow Machine Race: Has been cancelled due to lack of snow. As it was to be run during the week starting on a Tuesday, the club's involvement was going to be reduced this year due to a lack of volunteers.

Congratulations: To VA3DVE, Dave Horne on obtaining his 12 words per minute code, VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred on obtaining his 5 words per minute code and also VA3WRL, Wayne Letang on obtaining his 5 words per minute code.

Classes: Apparently a number of people from outside of Thunder Bay are driving into town each Wednesday night to take in the Ham classes.

Beargrease Sled Dog Race: Only 15 sleds started the 500 mile race, only 12 made it to the turn-around at Grand Portage. All went well with regard to communications.

Old Business

Membership List: It was requested at the December meeting that an up-to-date membership list

be made available at the January meeting. VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson printed several lists and they were passed out to the members present. The list was accurate as of January 10, 1995.

New Business

HI-Q: VA3ROM, Bob Mazur is looking for local articles that can be printed in *HI-Q*.

Annual Dinner: To be held Thursday, February 9, 1995 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pagoda Restaurant located on Dawson Road. The cost will be approximately 20.00 to \$21.00. The guest speaker to be announced.

Auditors: VE3KRH, Steve Rob and VE3NPS, Nestor Procup have been appointed to audit the financial records of the club as specified in the constitution. Their report will be ready for the annual meeting.

Jeep Eagle Nordic Combined: Will be run February 3rd, 4th and 5th. This will be a dry run for the club regarding communications for the Nordics.

Nordic Championships: VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki gave a brief run down on what was happening to date. Our operating area for net control and distribution of radios will be in the main chalet. Prior to March 9th, Mike will be looking for some help in checking out radio equipment brought in by the competing teams. A special event station will not be on the site due to the RF interference aspect.

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*Meeting Minutes continued
from page 3...*

Building Project: VE3FLB, Rob van Wyck asked if the club was considering taking on another building project this winter such as we did a year ago with the 2m amps. The President indicated that this idea would be given some consideration.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by VE3FLB, Rob van Wyck that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

50/50 Draw: Winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3DWP, Dan Darling.

FIRE ONE, ICOM NONE!

Rumour has it that Fred's, VE3FAL, ICOM suffered a nuclear melt down, when for some reason it decided to key down by itself at full power! Luckily, the XYL was at home and pulled the plug, literally!.

CLUB HELPS

The LARC has available, for club members, several video tapes on satellite receiving, packet radio and DXing. Contact Terry, VE3TKA, 807-577-9439

The Code & I BY RANDY, VA3GOT

I asked myself a very simple question after passing my Basic exam. Why did I wait so long for something that I really wanted 15 years ago? It has been almost a year and I still don't know the answer. HF radio operations has always been a goal of mine. It was a man named Samuel F.B. Morse, who happened to be doodling with a tapping pencil on paper, who made it a challenge for future generations!

I got started by learning the Morse code in one 12 hour shift. I learned all the characters, numbers and punctuation needed to pass the code test. A thought then entered my mind, one that haunts me to this day. If I could learn all of this stuff in 12 hours, the test should be a piece of cake! (Cough, cough on a mouthful of crumbs.)

Our local Morse code instructor offered a tape to learn the code from. The first time I played it, dits sounded like dahs and dahs sounded like dits. More advice, more tapes, more practice and more confidence. It was finally falling into place. Or so I thought.

My next fatal move was to go for the first test. After trying for about 2 hours, I was informed that "You know your stuff but you have to copy faster!" I was disappointed to say the least but I felt that I could beat this thing called Morse code.

After a bit more practice, test two was tackled with a pass mark and a new endorsement for my station—much to the relief of a very

persistent and patient volunteer examiner! It was a good thing that a vacuum cleaner provided the necessary QRM ambience one might find while copying code (private joke).

There were a few things that helped me with getting the code and HF privileges. If a code class is offered, take it! Get a variety of tape material to listen to while you are learning and practising. A short wave receiver is a valuable tool to listen to actual CW contacts. Practice as often as you can. Make time not excuses. Above all else, don't get frustrated. Ask for help and you will get it.

In closing, I would like to thank all the amateurs that have given of their time and knowledge to help me and others along. Without your generosity, many of the "new kids" may have given up.

On a personal note, I would like to send a special thanks to Tim, for his help, guidance, his papers and time and spare parts, etc. You get the idea.

A code practice oscillator and someone to send Morse code back and forth to really helps. You are learning a new language. The only way to learn it is to converse with someone else. Once you get your code endorsement, get on the air and answer a CQ that is at a speed you can copy most of the time. Above all, don't send fast. Go slow and easy. Speed will come with time and a lot of on-air experience.—Ed.

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Personality Of The Month BY IAN, VA3RIM

Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

On August 27, 1994, Bill Klemacki VE3AJ, at the age of 53 years was made a Life Member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

The years that Bill spent at Hillcrest High School in the mid to late 1950's were an important time. An electrical course from Bill Astle VE3LMM was especially enjoyable when our Bill built a vacuum tube volt meter and later a transistorized radio broadcast receiver but it was the physics class, taught by Bill Davis, that our Bill thought "that he was in Heaven." Another subject that he found enjoyable was music. Bill was in the school band where he played the clarinet, a most difficult instrument to master. Some noon-hours were spent in Bill Astle's electrical shop with George Podnar VE3GP where they turned on the radio broadcast receiver, listened to Morse code and generally "listened to the world" but the real interest in radio had not yet developed. It was the music of the school band that was important to Bill.

After graduating from high school, Bill took the course, *Electronic Engineering Technology* by means of correspondence from the Radio College of Canada. During this time, he decided to learn Morse code. Bill did this by sending code to himself by using a telephone hang-up switch as a key which emitted a sound that was totally



uncharacteristic of radio Morse code. Because of Bill's reputation as a "short-wave radio nut" as he called himself, people would give him old radios. When he got one with a BFO [Beat Frequency Oscillator] he was able to listen to Morse code by it's true sound! Bill eventually went on to copy code at 55 words per minute and send at 40 to 45 words per minute.

In 1961, Bill had a job of painting bridges for the summer and he also knew the radio that he wanted to buy. Once he had saved enough money he bought the Hallicrafter SX43 for \$140.00. It was also in 1961 that Bill began working for the Post Office, now Canada Post and for two years, he was an inside mail sorter.

The following year saw Bill writing the examination for his Amateur Radio Licence. The examiner was Les Harris VE3AYZ and it cost Bill fifty cents. The examination was both written and oral and it took five hours to

complete and if it was missed an applicant had to wait six months and then do it all over again. Bill passed but as he says, "It was one nerve shattering experience!" He was then issued the call-sign, VE3EEW [Electronic Engineering Wonder].

Bill has all his log books. His first radio contact was to Steve Bush VE3EBS, now VE3DP on 20 metres CW on September 10, 1962. His first out-of-town contact was to W1HNI on CW 20 metres to Boston, Massachusetts on September 11, 1962. Bill went on to build his first transmitter which was 150 watts using a Geloso VFO as the frequency control. The VFO was a fully self-contained transmitter and the rest of the transmitter was a pair of 807's, plate modulated with a pair of 807's.

It was in 1962 that Ken McDonald VE3ECK took Bill to his first Field Day at Frank Start's place in McIntyre Township. Someone knew of Bill's CW expertise and asked him to give it a try. Bill did so and in 1963, he joined the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. It was also in this same year that Bill changed jobs at the Post Office by becoming an outside letter carrier.

In 1964, Bill earned his Advanced Radio Licence after writing a three and a half hour examination. His radio interests continued and he purchased a new

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Personality Of The Month
continued from page 5...

Heathkit HX10 "Marauder" transmitter for single side-band. Later he got a new Drake 2B receiver and then sold it but because it was so nice he wants it back but it's owner does not want to part with it. In 1967, Bill bought a KW2000A transceiver from England and learned a great deal while modifying it.

Over the years since Bill joined the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club in 1963, he has held the positions of Vice-President, President, Director, Editor of *Hi-Q*, Emergency Co-ordinator and now a Senator of the club. While being an active member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Bill joined the Lakehead Search and Rescue Unit in 1966 and has been also on the Executive of that organization for *twenty-three years*. He was a President for three years. Bill mentioned that once while with the Search and Rescue Unit, they were flying in a plane doing a search when the pilot made a steep bank sideways. Bill was looking straight down at the ground through the window and his attention momentarily shifted to his foot. It was resting on the door handle...!

Luckily for us, Bill made it back safely because he became a prime mover in building the L.A.R.C. radio repeater station on the CKPR tower on top of Mount Baldy. Bill says that he has climbed 450 feet up that tower. Once he was up at the 250 foot level with Phil Moorey VA3AXL when they saw

a thunderstorm approaching. The winds increased, the sky got blacker and blacker. Streaks of lightening flashed across the sky, the rope was being blown straight out into space. Those boys came down the tower so fast that as Bill says, "Our legs felt like rubber when we got down to the bottom!"

In 1976, Bill left the Post Office and in that year began working for Thunder Bay Communications. Finally he was going to get paid for his radio technical expertise. In 1978, Bill and Pat Doherty VA3GD went to New Zealand and then to Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands where they stayed for three weeks. Having taken their radio rigs, they operated as a moderately rare DX station with the call-sign VE3EEW portable /ZK1.

Life down there must have been beautiful because Bill and Pat once back home decided to repeat the trip in 1984. This time they went to Western Samoa and then to Rarotonga again. Bill operated as ZK1X0 and Pat was ZK1XM. They took all their own radio equipment this time which

included a Dentron kilowatt amplifier, an Icom 75 watt transceiver, a tri-band antenna, mast, wire and coaxial cable. This equipment was left on the island to be used by their hosts.

In 1988, Bill slowed down long enough to marry Joan. He even convinced her to get her Amateur Radio Licence and she is now known as VE3NCN. One year later in 1989, Bill changed his call-sign to VE3AJ, which once belonged to the late Frank Start.

Bill continues his relentless pace. Much of the radio equipment is bought used and then modified by himself but he builds all his own antennas. His ambition is to build a complete multi-mode, multi-band radio station from scratch and he would like to have the opportunity to restore the radio equipment on the tug *James Whalen*.

When Bill is not working with radios, he tries to find time to work on another hobby which is woodworking. He is also a craftsman in this hobby as well. Bill is a Life Member of Radio Amateurs of Canada [RAC]. He is also a Life Member of The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation [AMSAT] and wants to participate in satellite radio communications. When Bill has some rare free moments, the love of music surfaces and he listens to jazz, Big Bands and light classical music.

Bill Klemacki's early morning radio call, "Good Morning, World!" is the signal from a Senator of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club for everyone to start working because he already has.

2 METRE MINI-NET

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's 2 metre mini-net and Swap 'n Shop meets every Monday evening at 1900 hours local time (7:00 p.m.), on the VE3YQT repeater 147.06 (-). Do join us!

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Radio Log

BY SKIP, VE3BBS

Annual Dinner: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's annual dinner will be held at the Pagoda restaurant, Thursday, February 9th, across from Country Fair Plaza. Symposium 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Cost of tickets is \$21.00. Tickets are available from Skip, VE3BBS, Terry, VE3TKA or Norm, VE3XRC. You can leave a packet message for me and pay at the door on the night of the dinner if that is easier.

Pre-Nordics: We would like to see as many Nordic volunteers (those who have signed up) as possible on Saturday, February 4th at the Big Thunder site. We will go through the procedure for the Nordics and do some basic orientation. A 2 metre Net Control station on VE3YQT will be set up for talk-in.

Accreditation Pictures: Security passes and pictures for signed up Nordics volunteers will begin on January 29th through the month of February from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The pictures will be taken at the Thunder Bay airport on the 2nd floor. You can park at the AVIS car lot and take a shuttle bus to the airport if you don't want to park and pay at the airport lot.

Uniforms: Uniform distribution will begin on February 22nd and 23rd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Nordic Volunteer Centre, 950

Memorial Avenue. The pick-up times are for those volunteers who have already been sized for a uniform. If you haven't been sized yet, you can go on February 28th or March 1st between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. There are no more outdoor uniforms available.

Because of the shortage of outdoor uniforms, I would recommend getting there early if you have put your money down for an outside uniform.

Appreciation Day: Volunteer Appreciation Day for all Nordics volunteers will be held at the Big Thunder site on Saturday, February 25th. The events will start at 2 p.m. There will be down-hill and cross-country skiing and other events scheduled for all.

Sibley Ski Tour: Volunteers are needed for the Sibley Ski Tour. Required are 7 to 8 radio operators for Saturday, March 4th. Breakfast call 6 a.m. at the Pass Lake Petro Can station at the corner of highway 11-17 and Pass Lake Road. Now that's dedication, hi, hi. Hand-helds with extra battery pack and external J-pole required. Skis optional.

Well, that about wraps it up for this month. If you have any questions concerning any or all of the topics mentioned, call me on either 2 metres, twisted-pair or see me at the Saturday breakfast.

Mail Experiment

With this issue of *HI-Q*, I'm trying a little experiment with the mail-outs. Presently, the envelopes used have no return address on them. We have no idea of knowing if addresses are changed during the year or if the mail-out is misdirected. Also, envelopes add to the total gram weight (about 2 sheets of paper).

The last *HI-Q* came in at 30 grams, which is the maximum weight to stay at 44 cents postage. It is very time consuming folding and stuffing envelopes and sealing the suckers shut (pun intended!)

So, hopefully a few trees and pennies will be saved by getting rid of the envelopes. As well, with the Nordics coming up, *HI-Q* will most likely have a lot of pictures and articles submitted for publication.

Speaking of submissions. People, we need your help to produce a quality newsletter. A few hams have responded with material and it is appreciated very much. However, we need quantity as well as quality. So, if you are reading this right now, make it a New Years resolution to submit at least one article, tid-bit or anything related to amateur radio. I don't need typewritten manuscripts or computer disks. Write something down on a piece of paper and mail it to me or to the club address.

Thank you.-Ed.

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FOR AMATEURS - BY AMATEURS

AMERITRON-ANTENNACO-A.O.R.-ASTATIC-AZDEN-B&W-BAYCOM-BENCHER-CREATE-DATONG-DELHI-
DIAMOND-DAIWA-EMOTATOR-GAP-GENESYS-GUNFLEET-HEIL-JRC-KENWOOD-LAKEVIEW-MFJ-
PALOMAR-SKYWARE-STARTEK-SYNTHETIC TEXTILES-TEXPRO-TIMEWAVE-UNADILLA-UNIDEN-VALOR-
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VE3BCD AT WORK... BY ED, VE3SNW